



City Clerk  
1500 Chapline Street  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
Phone: (304) 234-6401  
[wheelingwv.gov](http://wheelingwv.gov)

---

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **April 12, 2022**

The Public Safety Committee of Wheeling City Council met on the above date at 12:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Committee members present: Chair Seidler, Vice Chair Palmer, and Member Ketchum. Others present: City Manager Herron, Building and Planning Director Tom Connelly, Fire Chief Blazier, Deputy Police Chief Noice, City Solicitor Rose Humway-Warmuth, and City Clerk Brenda J. Delbert.

The following matters were discussed:

#### **Discussion on Fireworks Sunset Amendment**

Mr. Palmer would like to remove the sunset clause from Ordinance 15560, which amended and reenacted Article 1535 entitled Fireworks. The original changes were made in June 15, 2021 with a sunset occurring October 1, 2021. Mr. Palmer presents statistics that man hours were reduced amongst the Police Department and Fire Departments. Mr. Palmer, seconded by Mr. Seidler, moved to the sunset clause and forward to Council. Motion carried. All in favor.

A discussion ensued surround state laws allowing sales. Mr. Palmer suggests to change license fee schedule in the city to curb the amount of vendors for selling prohibited products. Mr. Herron states the fees are set by the Itinerant Vendors Code. To increase the fee Article 733 would need to be amended. Mr. Herron suggested the potential to use Home Rule amendment to apply to Fireworks. Mr. Herron indicated the Article 733: Itinerant Vendors applied to other sellers, not exclusively to fireworks, but any "tent" vendor. Mr. Palmer, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, moved to increase fee \$2,000 and forward to Council. Motion carried. All in favor.

#### **Discussion on Abandoned and Dilapidated Structures**

Mr. Seidler presents request from Police, Fire, and Building and Planning Departments to have a collaborative list of structured needing demolished. Mr. Seidler would like a formal cooperative review process to be implemented. He is requesting list to be completed by mid-May.

Mr. Seidler asks for full utilization of Article 1775 for enhanced penalty and for finds to be assessed daily in accordance with the law. Mr. Seidler, seconded by Mr. Palmer, moved to forward to Finance Committee to allocate \$1,000,000.00 to building demolition and utilize the lien process. Ms. Ketchum asks for the Historic Landmarks Commission be informed. All in favor. Motion carried.

A discussion ensued about prior "Red X Program." The structures on Raze and Repair list were clearly marked with "X" and owner contact information, so someone interested in purchasing can contact owner before demolition or purchase land. Ms. Ketchum suggests options to continue while maintaining visual integrity. Staff is directed to create a plan and possible implementation to revive the program.

Mr. Seidler asks for Municipal Court to be live streamed, and asks City Solicitor to explore legal ramifications.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Seidler, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, moved to adjourn. Time: 12:43 p.m.